

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A selective call communications unit arranged and constructed for extended battery life comprising in combination:
 - 5 a first receiver having low power consumption for receiving a call signal to provide an enable signal; and
 - a messaging receiver, activated by said enable signal, for receiving a message intended for the selective call communications unit.
 - 10 2. The selective call communications unit of claim 1 wherein said first receiver is one of a super regenerative receiver, regenerative receiver, tuned radio frequency receiver, ultrasonic receiver, and passive receiver.
 3. The selective call communications unit of claim 2 wherein said first
15 receiver operates according to a duty cycle including a down time period and an up time period, said down time period exceeding said up time period.
 4. The selective call communications unit of claim 2 wherein said first
20 receiver receives said call signal and remains powered up to detect a selective call address.

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5 The selective call communications unit of claim 4 wherein said first receiver compares said selective call address to an address for the selective call communications unit and when said address matches
5 provides said enable signal and when said address does not match resumes operation according to said duty cycle.

6 The selective call communications unit of claim 1 wherein said call signal includes one of an amplitude modulated signal and a frequency
10 modulated signal.

7 The selective call communications unit of claim 1 wherein said messaging receiver is one of a super heterodyne receiver, a zero
intermediate frequency receiver, a low intermediate frequency receiver
15 and a delay line receiver.

8 The selective call communications unit of claim 1 wherein said messaging receiver activated by said enable signal receives a protocol
arranged for messaging purposes.
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9. The selective call communications unit of claim 8 wherein said messaging protocol uses a direct sequence spread spectrum phase shift keyed modulation.

5 10. The selective call communications unit of claim 7 wherein a power consumption of said messaging receiver exceeds a power consumption of said first receiver.

10 11. The selective call communications unit of claim 1 further including a battery based power supply to power said first receiver and said messaging receiver, wherein an expected battery life is on the order of a shelf life for a battery included in said battery based power supply.

15 12. The selective call communications unit of claim 7 wherein said messaging receiver activated by said enable signal receives a selective call signal and detects a selective call address.

13. A method in a selective call communications unit of extending battery life, the method including the steps of:

first receiving a call signal using a first receiver to provide an enable signal in a first low power consumption mode; and

5 second receiving, responsive to said enable signal and in a second power consumption mode using a messaging receiver, a message intended for the selective call communications unit.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said first receiving said call signal
10 in said first low power consumption mode uses one of a super regenerative processes, regenerative processes, tuned radio frequency processes, ultrasonic processes, and passive receiving processes.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein said first receiving said call signal
15 in said first low power consumption mode includes operating according to a duty cycle including a down time period and an up time period, said down time period exceeding said up time period.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein said first receiving said call signal
20 in said first low power consumption mode includes detecting a selective call address.

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17. The method of claim 16 wherein said first receiving said call signal in said first low power consumption mode further includes comparing said selective call address to an address for the selective call

5 communications unit and when said address matches providing said enable signal and when said address does not match resuming operation according to said duty cycle.

18. The method of claim 13 wherein said first receiving said call signal 10 in said first low power consumption mode includes receiving one of an amplitude modulated signal and a frequency modulated signal.

19. The method of claim 13 wherein said second receiving said message in a second power consumption mode uses one of a super 15 heterodyne processes, a zero intermediate frequency processes, a low intermediate frequency processes and a delay line processes.

20. The method of claim 13 wherein said second receiving said message includes receiving a protocol arranged for messaging purposes.

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21. The method of claim 20 wherein said receiving said protocol includes receiving a direct sequence spread spectrum phase shift keyed modulation.

5 22. The method of claim 19 wherein said second receiving said message consumes more power than said first receiving said call signal.

23. The method of claim 13 further including providing a battery based power supply wherein an expected battery life is on the order of a
10 shelf life for a battery included in said battery based power supply.

24. The method of claim 19 wherein said second receiving said message includes receiving a selective call signal and detecting a selective call address.

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25. A selective call communications unit arranged and constructed for extended battery life comprising in combination:

a first receiver having low power consumption for receiving a call signal to provide an enable signal;

5 a messaging receiver, activated by said enable signal, for receiving a message intended for the selective call communications unit; and

a transmitter, activated by said enable signal for responding to said message.

10 26. The selective call communications unit of claim 1 further including a battery based power supply for powering said first receiver, said messaging receiver, and said transmitter wherein an expected battery life is on the order of a shelf life for a battery included in said battery based power supply.

15 27. The selective call communications unit of claim 1 wherein said first receiver is a regenerative receiver that receives an amplitude modulated signal and thereafter remains active to receive a selective call address.

20 28. The selective call communications unit of claim 27 further including a comparator for comparing said selective call address with an

address for the selective call communications unit and when said address matches provide said enable signal.

29. The selective call communications unit of claim 1 wherein said
5 messaging receiver activated by said enable signal receives a selective call address.

30. The selective call communications unit of claim 29 further
including a comparator for comparing said selective call address with an
10 address for the selective call communications unit and when said address matches remain active to receive said message.

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